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Federal Labour Minister tables back-to-work legislation in CN Rail dispute

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, February 23, 2007 —Today, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, tabled the *Railway Continuation Act, 2007*, in order to end the current work stoppage between Canadian National Railways Limited (Montreal, Quebec) and the United Transportation Union.

"This Government was most hopeful that the parties would be able to resolve their differences at the collective bargaining table. This is our preferred choice. I provided them with mediation assistance, but unfortunately they have been unable to reach an agreement," said Minister Blackburn.

"The work stoppage is having serious economic consequences across the country and the Government is taking this step in order to ensure the resumption of railway service. I have an obligation to the Canadian public to end this serious threat to the Canadian economy and to the livelihood of thousands of workers whose employment has been affected by this disruption," added Minister Blackburn. "It is now time for all Members of Parliament to put aside partisan differences, support the Government and act in the best interest of all Canadians," concluded Minister Blackburn.

The collective agreement between the parties, covering 2,800 conductors, brakemen and yardmasters expired on December 31st, 2006.

- 30 -

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